(e) by when M/s. HPC Limited propose to start issuing the second LPG cylinders at Fazilka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) There is one LPG distributor functioning in Fazilka with a consumer population of 3049 as on 28.2.1987. 1070 applications are pending with the distributor which are likely to be released by June, 1987, in a phased manner.

(b) Owing to heavy backlog in supply of refills in the State, the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation had temporarily suspended release of new LPG connections in December, 1986. The release has since been resumed in the Punjab, including Fazilka.

(c) The average demand and supply of LPG refills in Fazilka during the last six months was around 2240 and 2000 cylinders per month respectively.

(d) The present supply position in Fazilka is comfortable.

(e) The Corporation expects to release second cylinders in Fazilka in the third quarter of 1987-88.

Price of Crude in International Market

83. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the price of crude in the international market is firming up;

(b) whether it is also a fact that India has to pay nearly Rs. 4800 crore on import of oil and petroleum products during the next financial year;

(c) whether Government will bear such a heavy burden;

(d) whether Government propose to intensify indigenous production of crude than the imports; and

(e) if so, the reaction of Government thereto in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) In view of the fluctuating market, it is too early to estimate at this stage the size of the import bill for the next financial year.

(d) and (e) The steps taken to increase the production of crude oil in the country and to minimise the import bill include intensification of exploration, use of enhanced recovery techniques, induction of advanced technology and purchase of crude oil and petroleum products at the most favourable terms.

Export of drugs

84. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any fresh steps have been taken to boost the export of drugs; if so, what are the details thereof; and

(b) whether under these measures permission for manufacturing the drugs which have not yet been cleared for marketing in India but are being marketed in other countries has been given for export purposes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH):